IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of   Peter BAEUERLE

Serial No.   Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date   Herewith

Title   METHOD FOR OPERATING A TORQUE-CONVERTER LOCK-UP CLUTCH FOR A HYDRODYNAMIC TORQUE CONVERTER AND CONTROL DEVICE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims:

4.   (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 2, where the input torque (E) applied to the torque converter (1) is monitored inside the closing interval; in response to the input torque (E) changing by more than a specifiable tolerance deviation, the slip of the torque converter (1) being ascertained and taken as a basis for a new initial value, which would appear at this input torque (E) in the case of a completely opened torque-converter lockup clutch (20).

6.   (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 4, where the slip to be used as a new initial value, as a basis for the applied input torque (E) is determined using a stored characteristics map.

7.   (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 4, where the slip to be used as a new initial value, as a basis for the applied input torque (E) is calculated from the applied input torque (E), taking the performance figure of the torque converter (1) into consideration.

8.   (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, where, in order to adjust the slip, a controlled parameter is provided for setting a clamping pressure for the torque converter.

9.   (Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1, where the time characteristic of the slip is monitored for a decline, in order to detect the start of power transmission in the torque-converter lockup clutch (20).

13.   (Amended) The control device (24) as recited in Claim 11, whose control unit (26) is connected to date storage unit (36), in which a time characteristic for the setpoint value (sw) of the slip is stored, a slip existing at the beginning of a closing interval as an initial value being converted into a target value within the closing interval, in

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